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September 15, 2010

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: TV White Spaces
ET Docket Nos. 04-186 and 02-380

Dear Ms. Dortch:

My company, bright.net north Inc, provides fixed wireless broadband service in rural areas of northwest Ohio. We rely primarily on unlicensed spectrum to deliver broadband services to consumers that have no or few broadband choices. We built our network from scratch using devices authorized under Part 15 rules the FCC adopted to open up 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz spectrum for unlicensed broadband devices. Thanks to the Commission's initiatives, consumers in the northwest Ohio area can now enjoy broadband service.

Bright.net north Inc. is very interested in utilizing television white spaces so that we can improve and enhance the broadband services we provide to consumers in our area. Available unlicensed spectrum is reaching the point of maximum utilization and additional spectrum is desperately needed, especially the quality and quantity of spectrum being considered in this docket.

Wireless ISPs are uniquely positioned to provide a very cost effective solution for quickly achieving the broadband availability and speed initiatives of the FCC. bright.net north Inc. is committed to deploying as soon as equipment for point-to-multipoint service is commercially available.

I am pleased that the FCC will be acting on TV white space petitions for reconsideration in the near future. There are several proposals that would help us to deploy service:

First, the FCC should allow WISPs to operate using base station antennas mounted higher than 30 meters, and we should be allowed to install customer antennas (CPE) at heights below 10 meters. If we could increase our base station antenna height to 100 meters, we could cover three times more area with a base station and reduce our equipment, tower acquisition and tower lease fees by a large amount – an amount that could be the difference between deploying or not deploying in an area. We support the WISPA and Motorola proposals to increase base station height. By removing any minimum CPE height restrictions, we would not have to put tall masts on residences and we would be able to provide service at a lower cost.

Second, we believe we should be allowed to operate with power in excess of 4 Watts EIRP in rural areas. As is the case with tower height, operating with higher power will give us a greater coverage area and we will not need to spend as much money on infrastructure.

Third, we are very concerned about a proposal made by FiberTower and others to license white space spectrum for point-to-point wireless backhaul. Not only would adopting this proposal take six channels (36 MHz) and perhaps more channels away from us, but WISPs also would have to protect these licensed links. Moreover, channels and areas far beyond the links would be blocked because the signals from the licensed links would overshoot the path and the endpoints. This is due to the low-coast, low-gain antennas FiberTower wants to use. We also would not deploy if a licensed point-to-point user could come along later and put us out of business with a licensed link. We support the views expressed by WISPA in their September 8 letter and ask the FCC to reject the FiberTower proposal.

Consumers living and operating businesses within portions of rural northwest Ohio are currently enjoying broadband due to the wise decisions of the FCC to open spectrum for use by wireless ISPs. I urge the FCC to make another wise decision and spur another round of explosive growth in broadband deployment by granting the use of TV White Space spectrum for unlicensed fixed broadband use.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Damman, GM
bright.net north Inc.